Vol. IX. Numb. 65.

THE OBSERVATOR.

More Remarks, and Anſwers to ſome Queries, concerning the Addreſs of the Clergy of London *and* Weſtminſter.

From Saturday, Auguſt 26. to Wedneſday, Auguſt 30. 1710.

Obſ. HAN'T you heard the News of the *French* Squadrons fitting out from *Dunkirk* and *Breſt*, *Roger*, with Forces, *&c.* on board to bring in the Pretender?

Countrym. Yes, Maſter: Do ye think I am deaf? It has made ſuch a noiſe, that every body muſt have heard on't; but I don't fear it.

Obſ. I am glad you are ſo ſtout, *Roger:* How com'ſt thou to have ſo much Courage?

Countrym. The Addreſs of the Clergy of *London* and *Weſtminſter* has elevated my Spirits ſo, Maſter, that I can fear nothing. I am reſolv'd to lay out the Price of twenty of my beſt Cows, and all the Mony that *Joan* has got by her Milk and Butter for twelve months paſt, to buy Scarlet Waſt-coats and Jack-Boots for the *London* Clergy to appear at the head of our Volunteers, as they are oblig'd to do by their Addreſs, in order to withſtand the Return of Popery and Arbitrary Power. Beſides, Maſter, I will lend all the Horſes in my Teams, to mount the High-Church Sheriffs and Grand-Jury Men, who have promis'd in their Addreſſes to ſtand by her Majeſty and the *Hanover* Succeſſion againſt all Pretenders of whatever ſort: So that having ſuch a Power on my ſide, I have very good reaſon to be full of Courage, if I don't miſtake the Meaning of their Addreſſes.

Obſ. Why do you put ſuch an *If*, *Roger?* I don't love to hear you expreſs your ſelf ſo dubiouſly.

Countrym. This is an Age of Doubts and Queries, Maſter: I have a Paper of Queries ſent me concerning the Addreſs of the *London* Clergy, which vex me to the heart. I wonder why People ſhould be ſo ſcrupulous, and cannot take things upon truſt, when they are deliver'd *in Verbo Sacerdotis*. The Queries are, 1. Whether ſince the *London* Clergy talk of *Genuine Sons* of the Church of *England*, it does not favour Dr. *Sacheverel*'s Suppoſition of *Falſe Brethren*, who are Men of Characters and Stations in Church and State?

Obſ. I anſwer that Query by another, *Roger:* Who can be ſo uncharitable as to think the *London* Clergy would countenance ſuch a Diſtinction, ſince the Doctor was cenſur'd for it by the Houſe of Lords at the Suit of the Commons, and that their Cenſure was approv'd by her Majeſty, as appears by her laſt Speech from the Throne?

Countrym. The ſecond Query is, What thoſe unprecedented Attempts are, that have been lately made, to undermine not only our excellent Conſtitution in Church and State, but all Religion and Government?

Obſ. Can any body deny, *Roger*, that Dr. *Sacheverel* and his Mobs made ſuch unprecedented Attempts? I hope no body will think the *London* Clergy capable of ſuggeſting or inſinuating, that the Church is in danger under her Majeſty's Adminiſtration, contrary to the Declaration of her Majeſty and both Houſes in *December* 1705. for that were to incur the Cenſure of Queen and Parliament, That they who make ſuch Suggeſtions are Enemies to the Queen, the Church, and the Kingdom; and by conſequence to make themſelves liable to be puniſh'd for ſuch ſeditious and ſcandalous Reports, according to her Majeſty's Royal Proclamation.

Countrym. The third Query is, What is meant by theſe words: 'The time is now come, when 'we can no longer be innocently ſilent, ſince the 'Acknowledgment of your Majeſty's Hereditary 'Title and Irreſiſtible Authority, is openly and 'boldly repreſented as a plain Declaration in fa'vour of the Pretender?'

Obſ. Who knows not, *Roger*, that Hereditary Right, and the Unlawfulneſs of Reſiſting Princes on any pretence whatever, are the only Arguments that the *St. Germains* Family and their Friends make uſe of, to caſt odious and black Colours upon the Revolution, and to make good the Pretender's Claim to the Crown? Therefore whenever they hear theſe Expreſſions, they claim thoſe who make uſe of them as their own, and think they have as good a right to do ſo, as the Devil had to take poſſeſſion of a Woman he found in the Play-houſe, and boldly to tell the Exorciſt that he catch'd her on his own ground. Beſides, *Roger*, you have heard that during the infancy of Painting, the Painters, to prevent Peoples miſtake, us'd to write under their Performance, *This is a Horſe*, and *This is a Dog*, &c. Now the *Hereditary Right* and *Irreſiſtible Authority* being a new ſort of Topick to defend her Majeſty's Title, the *Hanover* Succeſſion, and the Revolution; ſome Parſons may find themſelves under as great a neceſſity to explain their Meaning at preſent, as the Painters were formerly.

Countrym. The fourth Query is, What they mean by thoſe words, 'We have ſworn, and are ſted'faſtly purpos'd to pay all Duty and Allegiance 'to your Majeſty our Rightful and Lawful Sove'reign, whoſe Title to the Crown by Deſcent has 'been affirm'd and recogniz'd by all your Liege 'People in full Parliament?'

Obſ. To be ſure, *Roger*, they mean honeſtly: Who can ſuppoſe ſuch a Learned Body of Men as our *London* Clergy, to be ignorant that 'tis High Treaſon to aſſert that any Perſon has a Right to our Crown, otherwiſe than as the ſame was ſettled by the Declaration of Rights, ratify'd by the 12th and 13th of *W.* cap. 2. by the 13th and 14th *W.* cap. 6. by the 17th Cap. of the next Parliament, that met the 20th of *Aug.* 1702. by the 4th of *Anne*, cap. 8. and by the Union-Act, 5th of *Anne*, cap. 8? Theſe are all the Acts that relate to the Succeſſion ſince the Revolution, and there is not one word in any of them of an Hereditary Right or Deſcent: On the contrary, K. *James*'s Hereditary Right, that of his pretended Son born here, of his Daughter born at *St. Germains*, and of the whole Popiſh Line, are ſet aſide to make way, *1ſt.* For the Princeſs of *Orange* and the Prince,

Prince, and the longeſt Liver of the two. Now Now no body can pretend that he had any Hereditary Right while the Princeſs, her Children by him, or by any other Husband, or the Princeſs of *Denmark* or her Children were alive. What became of the Hereditary Right then all that Reign? Did it not lie dormant, and give way to the Parliamentary Right? And did not her Majeſty ſucceed to King *William*, according to the Declaration of Rights, and the Act of the 12th and 13th of his Reign, which ratify'd the Succeſſion according to the ſaid Declaration? Let the Party produce any other Title or Right affirm'd or recogniz'd in Parliament if they can, and ſee how they can defend themſelves from High Treaſon, if any body ſhould proſecute them for ſetting up another Title. Theſe are Edg-Tools not to be jeſted with, *Roger*; a Blot is never a Blot till it be hit; and whenever this comes to be ſo, 'twill be found a very great one. The Parliamentary Right is what we are ſure of, but Hereditary Right, if diſtinguiſh'd from it, has an uncertain, if not a traitorous Sound, and ought never to be us'd without the addition of *according to Law*; for 'twas that which firſt made the Right Hereditary, and has now made it ſo again, but excluſive of the Popiſh Line, and of all our Princes that ſhall henceforth turn Papiſts, or marry Papiſts.

Countrym. I think you are perfectly in the right, Maſter; 'tis not enough for People to ſay they mean honeſtly, when they talk of Hereditary Right, but they ought to ſpeak ſo plain, as it may be underſtood they mean nothing elſe but the Hereditary Right that has been ſettled ſince the Revolution; and I conceive them to be ſo much the more oblig'd to do ſo, that they know the Hereditary Right, without that Explanation, to be the Pretender's only Claim: Then why ſhou'd any, who pretend to diſown his Title, and to aſſert that of her Majeſty and the Houſe of *Hanover* to be good *de Jure* as well as *de Facto*, affect to explain themſelves in ſuch ambiguous Terms, as to give the Pretender's Faction, or thoſe who are cordial for the *Hanover* Succeſſion, any Cauſe to miſtake their meaning. 'Tis the ſame as to the Doctrine of Non Reſiſtance; had our Tory-Addreſſers excepted the Caſe of the Revolution, and that of a King or Queen turning Papiſt, or marrying a Papiſt, there had been no occaſion for thoſe furious Debates: but ſince they have not done ſo, tho they know Dr. *Sacheverel* was impeach'd and cenſur'd for delivering his Propoſition in ſuch general Terms, as actually condemn'd the Revolution, and the Means made uſe of to effect it; they make themſelves juſtly liable to the ſame Charge that was brought againſt him, and give People too good ground to ſay, that they fly in the face of our Conſtitution, and that all their Addreſſes of that ſort are ſo many Declarations for the Pretender, or at leaſt groſs Contradictions, which impeach their Underſtanding as well as their Honeſty. But I come now to the fourth Query, Maſter, which I think ought to have been the firſt, *viz.* What do they mean by their Hearts having all along accompany'd their Fellow-Subjects, the genuine Sons of the Church of *England*, in their dutiful Application to her Majeſty from all Parts of the Kingdom? Ought they not to have expreſs'd themſelves a little more diſtinctly, ſince ſeveral of thoſe Applications have been made by Perſons of a very dubious Character, and in dubious Expreſſions, or as People commonly ſay, *Outs* and *Ins?*

Obſ. We ought always to put the beſt Conſtructions upon things that they will bear, *Roger*; Who can be ſo uncharitable as to think the *London* Clergy can approve of any thing in other Addreſſes, that ſeems to bear hard upon King *William*'s Memory, the Revolution, or the Proteſtant Succeſſion in the Houſe of *Hanover*, or that they intend to patronize Dr. *Sacheverel* againſt the Senſe of the Queen and Parliament?

Countrym. The fifth Query is this, Maſter; What were the Reaſons that ſome of the *London* Clergy, who are Men of very good Characters, diſſented from the Addreſſers?

Obſ. Let the Gentlemen concern'd anſwer for themſelves, *Roger*; In my Opinion it behoves them to do ſo, ſince the *Poſtboy* paſs'd a Reflection upon them, as if by their Diſſent they had contradicted their former Profeſſions. All I ſhall ſay further at preſent is this, that every good Proteſtant ought to be ſorry for theſe unhappy Diviſions which are fomented among us; it ſerves no Intereſt but that of our common Enemy: therefore I wiſh that all thoſe, who mean the ſame things, wou'd all ſo ſpeak them, in ſuch a plain and intelligible manner, as we mayn't fall out about Words; and that thoſe who are for the *Hanover* Succeſſion and the Revolution, wou'd explain themſelves ſo, in the Points of Non-Reſiſtance and Hereditary Succeſſion, as may give no occaſion for their Friends or their Enemies to miſtake them.

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Athenian News: or, *Dunton*'s Oracle. In three Thouſand ſeveral Poſts. To which is added, The Caſuiſtical Poſt, or Athenian Mercury, reſolving the moſt nice and curious Queſtions propos'd by the Ingenious of either Sex. Vol. I. Containing, 1. *Dunton*'s Poſt. 2. The Mob-Poſt. 3. The Whipping-Poſt. 4. The Lying-Poſt. 5. The Sybil-Poſt. 6. The Coffee-Houſe-Poſt. 7. The Love-Poſt. 8. The Duelling-Poſt. 9. The Singing-Poſt. 10. The Tatling-Poſt. 11. The Bed-Poſt. 12. The Mad-Poſt. 13. The Surprizing-Poſt. 14. The Poſt properly ſo call'd. 15. The Athenian Poſt. 16. The Drunken-Poſt. 17. The Ignorant-Poſt. 18. The Miſer's-Poſt. 19. The Rhiming-Poſt. 20. *Apollo*'s-Poſt. 21. The Wedding-Poſt. 22. The Dipping-Poſt. 23. The Caſuiſtical-Poſt. To which ſeveral Poſts is prefix'd, a General Title, Preface, and Index, with an honourable Challenge to the Celebrated Tatler, to write either *Pro* or *Con* upon all diſputable Points; with a Specimen of the firſt Challenge, in a *Hebrew* Queſtion, and other Problems concerning the Divine Preſcience. The Challenges (if accepted) to be continu'd Weekly by the whole Athenian Society, being twelve Gentlemen, all Maſters in their ſeveral Facultys, and whoſe Characters are diſtinctly given in the Title-Sheet, which is to be ſeen in all Coffee-houſes and Bookſellers Shops, and is given gratis at the Sword in New-ſtreet, near Fetter-Lane, and by *John Morphew* near Stationers-Hall; where is to be had the firſt Volume of *Dunton*'s *Oracle* compleat, *Price* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* or any ſingle Number of the ſecond Volume, but not of the firſt, all the ſingle Numbers of the firſt Volume being now gather'd into Sets. The Athenian News, or three Thouſand *Poſts*, will be continu'd every Tueſday and Saturday, to furniſh out a univerſal Entertainment; and ſix Volumes (which contain juſt ninety Sheets) will be a fit Size for binding.

☞ The Earl of Torrington's Speech to the Houſe of Commons, in November, 1690. occaſion'd by the Ingagement at Sea on the 30th of June that Year, between the Confederate and French Fleets. To which is prefix'd, A Draught of the Line of Battel, curiouſly engraven on Copper. Sold by S. Popping at the Raven in Pater-noſter-Row.

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